

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed October 3, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 19, 24, 26, 31, and 33 being the independent claims. Claims 19-36 have been withdrawn. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 7 has been canceled. No new matter is believed to have been added.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claim 18.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,143, 986 to Anderson et al. ("Anderson") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,283,238 to Jacquemart ("Jacquemart").

Independent claim 1 has been amended and now recites, *inter alia*, trimming a damaged area of the metal overbraid circumferentially around the metal overbraid wiring harness to expose a repair area, moving the metal overbraid away from the repair area, spreading the metal overbraid to produce individual metal strands, covering the repair area with an electrically conductive material, moving the individual metal strands over the electrically conductive material, and overlaying the repair area with a wire screen mesh wherein the repair area is completely covered by the wire screen mesh.

Anderson teaches a repair splice member that is placed within an outer protective layer of a harness and is provided with shoulder portions, for accommodating removal and replacement, as required, of protective layers of the harness positioned between the repair splice member and a backshell thereby permitting unraveling or damaged portions of the protective layers to be replaced and electrical conductor connections to be repaired in an airworthy repair procedure without the necessity of replacement of the entire harness in the field. See Abstract. Jacquemart teaches a method of reconstituting an external conductor of a coaxial cable which stands up well to bending and has good electromagnetic propagation, where solid non-perforated or woven strips are wound in a helix along the whole length of the part which is to be repaired and the ends of the intact external conductor and said strips are glued on these ends with an electrically

conductive glue. See Abstract. However, nowhere does Anderson or Jacquemart remotely mention or suggest spreading the metal overbraid to produce individual metal strands, covering the repair area with an electrically conductive material and moving the individual metal strands over the electrically conductive material, as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner is well aware of the three basic criteria necessary to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and third, the prior art reference or references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on Applicants' disclosure. In *Re Vaack*, 947 Fed. 2d 488, 20 USPQ 2d, 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Accordingly, as Anderson and Jacquemart fail to disclose, either explicitly or inherently, at least the above-noted elements of claim 1, and the Examiner has failed to provide such an explicit or inherent disclosure of these elements, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims and the claims that depend therefrom (e.g. claims 2-17) is improper and the Applicants request withdrawal of the § 103 rejection.

Support for Claim Amendments

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended. Support for these amendments appear at least in paragraphs [0031] and [0033] and FIGs. 6-9.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also deemed patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record does not disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the inventive subject matter as defined by the claims.

Hence, the Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

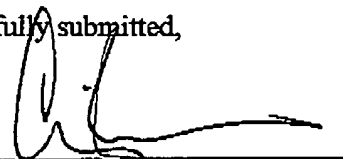
If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason the Applicants have not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 29, 2006

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